

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending. Claims 1-44 are rejected. Claim 6 has been canceled. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-5 and 7-44 remain pending. Reconsideration of the claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-11, 17-20, 22-23, 31-34, and 41-42 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tan (US 4,435,804). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 specifies a low pass filter selecting a first group of the data that represents a low frequency portion of a sound signal. A high pass filter selects a second group of the data that represents a high frequency portion of the sound signal. A transmit buffer transmits to a network the first data group in a first packet and the second data group in a second packet distinct from the first packet.

One advantage of the claimed system is to increase reliability of transmitted sound packets by sending the high frequency and low frequency components of the sound signal in separate packets. Therefore, if either the low or high frequency packets are lost during transmission, the receiver can still hear some of the sound signal.

The Examiner states that Tan at Col. 3; line 41 and col. 2, lines 34-37 suggests a transmit buffer for transmitting to a network the first data group in a first packet and the second data group in a second packet distinct from the first packet. However there is no suggestion in Tan at either cited location of a transmitter that separates and then sends low frequency and high frequency components of a sound signal in separate packets.

In fact Tan teaches away from the invention by teaching a buffer 8 that combines a high frequency portion of a main signal 18 with a low frequency portion 21 of a voice signal. For example, the Tan specification at column 3, line 3, states: "Then, the sub-signal 21 is combined with the main signal and transmitted to the coaxial cable 1." This is exactly the opposite of the invention as specified in claim 1 where the high and low frequency components of the sound signal are separated and transmitted in different packets.

Tan is also opposite to the prevent invention as specified in claim 1 in that the main signal 16 and the voice signal 6 in Tan are converted from packet form into analog form, passed through filters and then combined together to form a single analog signal. Specifically, Tan includes a trans-encoder 4 that converts the main signal 16 into the analog Manchester Code waveform shown in FIG. 2. Column 3, lines 14 states: "The transmitting

encoder 4 converts the main signal into a transmission waveform . . ." Conversely, the prevent invention as stated in claim 1 converts a sound signal into sound packets.

Claim 2 specifies an encoder for encoding the first data group from the low pass filter into the first packet and encoding the second data group from the high pass filter into the second packet and sending the first and second packet to the transmit buffer.

The trans-encoder 4 in Tan outputs data to the high pass filter 5. Conversely, the encoder specified in claim 2 receives the output from the high pass and low pass filter.

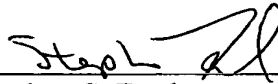
Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tan in view of Porter (US 4,208,716). There is no suggestion in Tan or in Porter of a switch having a first position for directing the first data group from the low pass filter to the encoder, and a second position for directing the second data group from the high pass filter to the encoder so that the encoder can interleave the first low frequency packet with the second high frequency packet. There is also no suggestion in Tan or in Porter of a delay buffer for delaying the arrival of one of the first data group and the second data group to the switch as specified in claim 4.

Claims 6-44 include similar limitations as claims 1-5 and are patentable for the same reasons claims 1-5 are patentable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-44 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

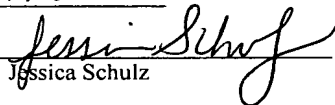
Respectfully submitted,



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